

Report No:	REP12-05-02
File No:	B104
Date:	1 May 2012
Decision Required	

REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Environment & Planning Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 17 May 2012

Report Author Lindsay Vaughan, Co-ordinator Biosecurity

Subject: **TASMAN-NELSON PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012-2017**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Strategy Review Committee has recommended that Council approve notification of the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy 2012- 2017 for public submission containing the listed changes to the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-12.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Proposed Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2012-17 be notified for public submission containing the following changes to the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-12:

- Removal of the requirement for occupiers of land containing Argentine or Darwin's ants to bait but adding a provision to require the two councils to continue treatment of roadside berms and reserve margins to slow ant spread;
- Inclusion of European canker into the Strategy as a Boundary Control Pest;
- Inclusion of kiwifruit "wildings" into the Strategy as a Regional Surveillance Pest;
- Inclusion of Climbing Asparagus as a Progressive Control Pest in eastern Golden Bay in a defined area between Motupipi and Pohara;
- Inclusion of a section on biological control and the National Biocontrol Collective funded by councils and by the Department of Conservation;
- Inclusion of a section on the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the three Top of the South councils.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee adopt the following recommendation of the Strategy Review Committee:

That Council approves the notification of the Proposed Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2012-17 for public submission containing the listed changes to the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-12.



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Co-ordinator Biosecurity

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Subject: **PROPOSED REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2012-2017**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council to adopt the recommendation of the Strategy Review Committee to notify the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy 2012-2017 for public submission

2. Background

- 2.1 The Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2012 needs to be reviewed and a new Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy notified for submission by 30 June 2012. The Environment and Planning Committee agreed at its meeting on 6 October 2011 to undertake a *de minimis* review that would result in a largely unchanged Strategy, given that the Biosecurity Act is in the process of being significantly amended and a major review will be required to meet the requirements of the new legislation.
- 2.2 To carry out the review, the two councils each appointed three councillors to the Strategy Review Committee (TDC - Crs Ensor, Norris and Maling; NCC - Crs Barker, Copeland and Ward). The Committee has delegated authority to hear and determine submissions and make recommendations to two councils on the review of the joint Regional Pest Management Strategy.

A discussion paper on the review was distributed to 36 stakeholders, covering primary industries (agriculture, forestry, horticulture), government agencies (MAF, DOC), NGOs (Forest & Bird, Fish and Game), iwi, other councils (MDC, WCRC), and individuals with a particular interest in the Strategy. Three public meetings were also held in Nelson, Richmond and Takaka.

The proposals outlined in the discussion paper and discussed at the public meetings were:

- Removal of the requirement for occupiers on land containing Argentine or Darwin's ants to bait. Proposed by TDC Biosecurity staff.
- Inclusion of European canker into the Strategy as a Boundary Control Pest, similar to other horticultural diseases. Proposed by the Motueka Pipfruit Growers.

- Inclusion of kiwifruit wildings into the Strategy as a Total Control Pest. Proposed by Kiwifruit Vine Health.
 - Inclusion of Climbing Asparagus as a Progressive Control Pest in an area of Eastern Golden Bay between Motupipi and Pohara. Proposed by the Rocklands Road Weedbusters.
- 2.3 The Strategy Review Committee met on 17 April 2012 and considered proposals for amending the Strategy. They accepted that it was not possible to enforce the requirement for all occupiers on ant-infested properties to bait with approximately 1,600 residential properties now affected. They agreed on the need to focus on slowing the rate of spread rather than ensuring ants are controlled on urban sections. They supported the Management Agency continuing to undertake surveillance, provide information and advice on methods of control, fund research into more effective methods of control, and assess new control products. They asked for the inclusion of a provision to require the two councils to continue treatment of its roadside berms and reserve margins to slow the spread of ants. The Committee wanted to ensure that the councils continue treatment on council land to slow the spread of ants.
- 2.4 The Committee accepted that European canker had become a much more serious problem for pipfruit growers with apple orchards in recent years as a result of the increased susceptibility of the new varieties, infected seedlings from nurseries, and much wetter weather in spring, autumn and winter. They asked that staff work with industry to develop a boundary control rule, similar to the fireblight rule, with a boundary distance that had a scientific basis.
- 2.5 The Committee did not accept the proposal from Kiwi Vine Health to designate kiwifruit wildings and abandoned kiwifruit orchards as Total Control pests, but agreed to designate kiwifruit “wildings” as a Regional Surveillance pest.
- 2.6 The Committee agreed to support the request from the Rockland Road Weedbusters Group to designate a specified part of eastern Golden Bay as a Progressive Control Pest where the property owners have agreed to commit to ongoing control of this and other pests as part of a major weed control project.
- 2.7 The Committee supported the inclusion of sections on biological control and on the Top of South Marine Biosecurity Partnership to present a fuller picture of the activities being undertaken to achieve the objectives of the Strategy.
- 2.8 The Committee agreed to the re-appointment of Tasman District Council as the Management Agency for the implementation of the Strategy.
- 2.9 The Committee accepted that the time spent by staff in dealing with requests from residents within NCC and in dealing with pests on land within NCC was 24% of total staff time and that the Nelson City Council contribution would be 24% of the 2012-13 budget and this would be inflation-adjusted by 3% for each successive year until the next review.

3. Present Situation/Matters to be considered

3.1 The Strategy Review Committee recommended that the two councils adopt the 2012-2017 Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy containing the following changes to the 2007-2012 Strategy:

- (a) Removal of the requirement for occupiers of land containing Argentine or Darwin's ants to bait but adding a provision to require councils to continue treatment of roadside berms and reserve margins to slow ant spread
- (b) Inclusion of European canker into the Strategy as a Boundary Control Pest
- (c) Inclusion of kiwifruit "wildings" into the Strategy as a Regional Surveillance Pest
- (d) Inclusion of Climbing Asparagus as a Progressive Control Pest in eastern Golden Bay in a defined area between Motupipi and Pohara
- (e) Inclusion of a section on biological control and on the National Biocontrol Collective funded by councils and by the Department of Conservation
- (f) Inclusion of a section on the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the three Top of the South councils

4. Financial/Budgetary Considerations

4.1 The preparation and production of a Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy is not expected to exceed \$6,400 in the current financial year and the preparation and production of the 2012-2017 Regional Pest Management Strategy in the next financial year is not expected to exceed \$8,400.

5. Options

5.1 There are two options.

Option 1: Ignore the recommendations of the Strategy Review Committee and leave the 2007-2012 Regional Pest Management Strategy unchanged.

Option 2: Adopt the recommendation of the Strategy Review Committee and make the necessary changes to the existing Strategy.

6. Pros and Cons of Options

Option 1: Leaving the 2007-2012 Regional Pest Management Strategy unchanged leaves Council as Management Agency with an ant-baiting rule that it is unable to enforce. This has generated frustration from a number of property owners who are controlling ants on their property but have neighbours who are not, resulting in early re-invasion. It ignores the problems being experienced by apple orchardists who are

experiencing problems with the management of European canker and this is being accentuated by neighbours who are not implementing the European Canker Management Strategy. It fails to prepare for the possible arrival of Psa into kiwifruit orchards in the Tasman region. It misses the opportunity to support a significant community-led pest control project in eastern Golden Bay.

Option 2: Making the recommended changes to the 2007-2012 Regional Pest Management Strategy allows the Management Agency to focus on slowing the rate of spread of ants, continuing to undertake surveillance, providing information and advice to occupiers on methods of control, coordinating research into more effective methods of control, and assessing new products and methods of control. It will assist apple orchardists working hard to control European Canker on their property by minimising the risk of re-infection from non-complying neighbours. It will ensure that Council has information on the location of kiwifruit wildings if it becomes necessary to remove them following the arrival of Psa. It also ensures the Rockland Road Weedbusters Group is able to control to control Asparagus vine at the same time as they are dealing with other weeds.

7. Evaluation of Options

7.1 The Strategy needs to be reviewed and notified for public submission before 30 June 2012. The recommended changes are relatively minor, but provide benefits to Council, to complying apple orchardists and to landowners.

8. Significance

8.1 This is not a significant decision according to the Council's Significance Policy because it is unlikely to have significant financial, social, economic environmental or cultural impacts, providing the notification of the review is made prior to the Strategy's expiry on 30 June 2012.

9. Recommendation/s

That the Proposed Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2012-17 containing the following changes to the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-12 be notified for public submission before 30 June 2012:

- Removal of the requirement for occupiers of land containing Argentine or Darwin's ants to bait but adding a provision to require the two councils to continue treatment of roadside berms and reserve margins to slow ant spread;
- Inclusion of European canker into the Strategy as a Boundary Control Pest;
- Inclusion of kiwifruit "wildings" into the Strategy as a Regional Surveillance Pest;

- Inclusion of Climbing Asparagus as a Progressive Control Pest in eastern Golden Bay in a defined area between Motupipi and Pohara;
- Inclusion of a section on biological control and the National Biocontrol Collective funded by councils and by the Department of Conservation;
- Inclusion of a section on the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the three Top of the South councils.

10. Timeline/Next Steps

10.1 That the Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy 2012-2017 be publicly notified before 30 June 2012

11. Draft Resolution

THAT the Environment & Planning Committee adopt the following recommendation of the Strategy Review Committee:

That Council approves the notification of the Proposed Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2012-17 for public submission containing the listed changes to the Tasman Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-12 before 30 June 2012.



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